

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SEVENOAKS

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1945

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

R E P O R T FOR THE YEAR 1945

on the

Sanitary Conditions and
Vital Statistics of the
Sevenoaks Urban District

by the

Medical Officer of Health
Together with the Report of
the Sanitary Inspector.

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1945

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Health Report for the year 1945, this being the twenty-third one submitted by me as your Medical Officer of Health.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar-General at mid-year 1945 was 13,090, as compared with 12,720 last year.

The Birth Rate for the year was equal to 14·5 per thousand of population, as against 17·7 last year.

The Death Rate was equal to 13·3 per thousand of population, the Rate for last year being 13·1.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 47 per thousand registered births, as compared with 48 last year.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified was 198, as against 40 last year. This is chiefly due to a much larger number of cases of Measles notified, viz.: 153 as against 2 last year.

In submitting this Report, I desire to thank the Council and all its Officers for the help and assistance I have received from them. In particular, I would like to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and efficient services rendered by Mr. Gypps and the Health Visitor.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. N. CAVE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman - - - Mrs. M. E. DAVIS, J.P.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

F. G. HUMPHREY, Esq.

REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SEVENOAKS MOTHERS' AND BABIES' WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. M. E. DAVIS, J.P.

Mrs. F. S. SOYER.

REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DARENTH VALLEY MAIN SEWERAGE BOARD.

F. G. HUMPHREY, Esq.

W. M. VALON, Esq., J.P.

F. JARVIS, Esq.

P. A. STRANGE, Esq.

Mrs. F. S. SOYER.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. N. CAVE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. J. GYPPE, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:

Mrs. J. WOODHAMS.

(Miss M. SHIEL appointed December, 1945.)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,720
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1945	13,090
Number of occupied houses, December, 1945 ...	4,350
Rateable Value of District, December, 1945 ...	£167,981
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£667
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population.	
Live Births: Total. M. F.	
Legitimate ... 172 88 84	
Illegitimate ... 18 11 7	
Total Births ... 190 99 91	14·5
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	
Stillbirths ... 6 5 1	30·61
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population.	
Deaths ... 175 100 75	13·3
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	
Deaths from puerperal causes:	
Puerperal Sepsis ... 1	5·10
Other puerperal causes ... 3	15·30
Infant Deaths:	
Deaths. No. of	
All infants ... 9	47
Rate per 1,000 live births.	
Legitimate infants ... 7	40
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	
Illegitimate infants ... 2	111
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	Nil

HEALTH STATISTICS.

Births.—During the year 190 Births were registered as belonging to the District, of which number 99 were males and 91 were females. This is equal to a Birth Rate of 14·5 per thousand of population, as compared with 17·7 last year.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year as belonging to the District was 175 (100 males and 75 females). This gives a Death Rate of 13·3 per thousand of population, as against 13·1 last year.

Infant Deaths.—During the year 9 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age (7 legitimate and 2 illegitimate). The Infantile Mortality Rate was therefore equal to 47 per thousand registered births, as compared with 48 last year.

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate	14·5	16·1
Death Rate	13·3	11·4
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	47	46

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000)	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
BIRTHS:					
Live	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	14.5
Still	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.45
DEATHS:					
All Causes	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	13.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.15
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under one year of age	46	54	43	53	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	—
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Typhoid Fever	00.1	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	00.1	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	00.5	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.15
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	1.63
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	0.99
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.07
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.07
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	11.83
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.07
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	—
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.87*	—

A dash (—) signifies there were no deaths.

* Including Puerperal Fever.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, the number removed to hospital, and the total deaths:—

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	18	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	...	1
Pneumonia	1	...	7*
Poliomyelitis	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	13	...	...
Malaria	1	...	...
Dysentery	1	...	...
Measles	153	...	...
TOTALS	198	19	8

* All forms of Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified, together with the number of deaths:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	9	3	12	3	1	4
Non-Pulmonary	2	4	6	...	1	1
Totals	11	7	18	3	2	5

The treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Kent County Council, and during the year the following number of patients from this District have received treatment:—

Number receiving sanatorium treatment	...	...	52
Number receiving dispensary treatment	...	...	61
Dispensary supervision only	...	...	233

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 176.

No action under the above was required to be taken during the year.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

During the year the following work has been done in connection with the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic:—

Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	...	154
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	180

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year the following number of patients have been admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

	Sevenoaks Urban.	Sevenoaks Rural.	Service Personnel.	Private Patients.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria	3	1	—	—	4
Diphtheria (query)	2	8	—	—	10
Typhoid Fever	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	1	—	4	1	6
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	2	—	2
Mumps	—	—	9	—	9
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	1	3
Vincent's Angina	—	—	2	—	2
German Measles	—	—	4	—	4
Jaundice	—	—	—	1	1
Chicken-pox	—	—	3	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	1
Laryngeal Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1
	8	10	26	4	48

The number of Service patients admitted during the War years was 180.

LABORATORY WORK.

The bacteriological work in connection with this District is carried out at the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone, and during the year the following number of specimens have been examined there:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Sputa for Tubercle	15	1	16

DRAINAGE.

No extensions to the drainage of the District were carried out during the year.

SANITARY STATISTICS.

No. of houses connected to the sewer	No. of houses not connected to sewers	No. of houses not provided with a piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of domestic supply
3861	142	Nil	Nil

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

W. C's	Pan or pail Closets	Midden Privies	Ashpits separate from Midden Privies	Cesspools	
				No. of	No. of houses connected
5790	5	2	—	131	138

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the Sevenoaks Water Works Company gave notice that the following works were to be carried out:—

Hillingdon Rise Housing Scheme—1,050 yards of new 4in. main.

A new Pumping Station from the Bat and Ball area to the Reservoir site, Tonbridge Road (3,105 yards of 12in. main).

During the year 11 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported in each case that the sample was satisfactory.

HOUSING.**1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.**

- (1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 4
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 11
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
- (4) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 4

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - By owners Nil
 - By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made *Nil*
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit *Nil*

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV: Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 16
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 31
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 155
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 14
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 9
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding *Nil*
- Number of new houses erected during the year:
- By the Council *Nil*
- By other persons *Nil*

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Council employs the services of one full-time Health Visitor, who works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year she paid a total of 1,261 visits.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following work has been done in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare during the year:—

Child Welfare Centres.

Number of sessions held	101
Number of names on register: Mothers	496
Children	530
Number of attendances	5,291
Average attendance	52

Ante-natal Clinic.

Number of sessions held	24
Number of attendances	356
Average attendance per session	15

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

During the year the following work has been done in connection with the sunlight treatment clinic:—

Number of sessions held	39
Number of treatments given	139
Number of children treated	45

VOLUNTARY HELPERS.

I have pleasure in again placing on record my high appreciation of the excellent work done during the year 1945 by the Voluntary Workers of the Sevenoaks Mothers' and Babies' Welfare in connection with the Council's Clinics and other activities carried out under their Maternity and Child Welfare responsibilities.

The easy and efficient functioning of such a Service is essentially bound up with the voluntary services rendered by those interested in the work. This readiness to help, and these services have been rendered in full measure by the members of the Sevenoaks Mothers' and Babies' Welfare, and to these, to a considerable extent, is due the very satisfactory standard reached and maintained in the town.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

The powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing and Maternity Homes have been delegated to the District Council by the County Council.

There are four registered homes within the District, the number of beds available being 15 for maternity cases and 33 for other cases.

SCHOOLS.

There are four elementary schools within the District.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS.

Persons visited. Benzyl Benzoate given free, and advice given for use. Cases followed up until clear.

SUMMARY OF REGULATED TRADES.

	Number of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
Dairies	8	159	3	3
Cowsheds	2	22	—	—
Slaughterhouses ...	2	588	4	4
Bakehouses	7	64	3	3
Other food preparing places . . .	33	344	8	8
Factories	62	61	1	1
Workshops				
Workplaces . . .				
Totals	114	1238	19	19

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The Council granted the following number of licences under the above Order during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurisers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year 46 samples of milk were submitted for examination, consisting of:—

					Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	8	3
Accredited	...	...	...	...	4	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	17	—
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	11	—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed, if known ...	1093	568	1227	3730	1489
Number inspected ...	1093	568	613	1765	1489
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	38	5	6	24	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	3.84	0.88	0.98	1.36	1.75
Tuberculosis Only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	14	1	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	79	8	—	—	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.68	3.80	0.16	—	1.60

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year 66 visits were paid under the Shops Acts, and 6 minor contraventions were found and dealt with.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one public swimming bath in the District, the water passing through a continuous filtration plant.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year the following number of houses were dealt with:—

Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Disinfestation was carried out by means of Zaldecide spraying and fumigation by sulphur, and steam disinfection of bedding, etc.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of nuisances.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYELAWS.

No Acts or Byelaws were adopted during the year.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Cause of Death	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid fever	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	1	4
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	...	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...
Influenza	1	1	2
Measles	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	...	...	...
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ...	...	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5
Cancer of the Breast	...	4	4
Cancer, all other forms	13	11	24
Diabetes	...	1	1
Intra cranial vasc. lesions ...	11	16	27
Heart disease... ..	22	22	44
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Other respiratory diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum...	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	...	5	5
Nephritis	1	2	3
Post and post-abort. sepsis... ..	...	1	1
Other maternal causes	...	3	3
Premature Birth	3	...	3
Congenital malformation and birth injury	...	1	1
Suicide	1	...	1
Road traffic accidents	...	3	3
Other violent causes	5	9	14
All Other causes	3	5	8
TOTALS	75	100	175

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks.

1945.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1945.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The routine inspections of the District have been maintained as far as possible, and special attention has been paid at all times to meat inspection at the two Government slaughterhouses, food preparing places, and the milk supplies in the town. Throughout the year close contact has been kept with the D.C.R.E. and his staff in the town concerning military billets, and on the whole very little trouble was experienced. Any defects relating to drainage which were discovered and reported to the military authorities were always promptly dealt with.

Defects, where discovered, were dealt with by the usual informal action, and no Statutory Notices were served during the year.

During the year only two cases of bug infestation occurred, and these were dealt with by spraying, fumigation and steam disinfection. During the same period 54 fumigations were carried out by the Public Health Department following infectious diseases or at the request of residents, and in addition 35 batches of bedding etc. were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection. Where a request is made for this work to be done, and the case is not attributed to a notifiable infectious disease, a charge is made to cover the cost.

HOUSING.

The housing position in the town has obviously varied and there are many houses in the occupation of more than one family. With the return of the men from His Majesty's Forces it became acute in many cases, and several of these were dealt with by your Council under the powers conferred by the Ministry of Health for dealing with inadequately housed families.

As Housing Manager a considerable amount of time was spent in dealing with the many applications for housing accommodation which were received and recorded in the Public Health Department, and by the end of the year the number of applicants on the Register had considerably increased. There is much useful work to be done in this connection and it has been found necessary to make personal visits to these cases before they can be accurately assessed for accommodation.

During the latter part of the year a number of overcrowded cases were housed in temporary accommodation provided under the requisition powers, and these were much appreciated by the selected applicants. In view of the limited accommodation in some of the premises, and the possible increase of children, it will be necessary to transfer some of these cases as soon as possible into the permanent houses which are being provided by the Council.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The milk supplied in the town has been kept under close supervision. The bulk of the supply continues to be delivered to consumers in bottles, and I received no complaints from consumers during the year. There is one modern Pasteurising Plant (Holding Process), together with a steam bottle-washing machine, in the area, and arrangements were in hand at the end of the year to replace this plant with one of the H.T.S.T. type of Pasteurising Plant. There is one farm in the area at which Accredited Milk is produced.

During the year 181 visits were paid to the dairies and cowsheds. Three defects were discovered and dealt with during the same period.

The following samples of milk were taken in the area during the year and submitted for examination:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

On the whole the reports upon these samples were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE.

There were no extensions to the sewerage system or surface water sewers during the year.

During the year the undermentioned extensions of water mains were carried out by the Sevenoaks Waterworks Company:—

Pumping main	...	...	...	3,105 yards of 12in.
Hillingdon Rise Housing Scheme	...	1,050 yards of	4in.	

Eleven samples of the domestic water supply in the town were taken by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination, and the reports upon these were satisfactory.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this Order during the year has been carried on and a number of premises have been treated to exterminate rats. A part-time rodent operator is available in the Department for this work and throughout the year no extensive infestations were reported. 151 visits were paid during the year under this heading.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION.

The two Government Slaughterhouses were used throughout the year by the Ministry of Food and special attention was paid to meat inspection. These have been maintained in a satisfactory condition, and close co-operation exists between my Department and the Manager of the Slaughterhouses appointed by the Ministry of Food. 588 visits were paid during the year for the inspection of meat, which is distributed chiefly over the Urban and Rural areas.

During the year 9 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 13 lbs. of meat was condemned at the two slaughterhouses; this was dealt with in co-operation with the Slaughterhouse Manager and passed to the salvage scheme of the Ministry of Food. In addition to the above 7 cwts. 1 qr. 13 lbs. of other foodstuffs, which upon examination in the various premises in the town was found to be unfit for human consumption, was surrendered to the Public Health Department by the vendors and passed through the salvage scheme.

GENERAL.

A.R.P. work and the work under the Coal Distribution Order, 1943, under which I act as Local Fuel Overseer for your Council, have again been carried out by my Department, together with the arrangements for running a 24-hour Ambulance Service which commenced in July in co-operation with the Rural District Council, and I would like to record my best thanks to the staff in my Department, who have worked extremely hard during the year.

SUMMARY.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	181
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	588
Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	...	344
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	64
Factory Act	...	...	...	...	...	61
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	66
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	...	...	151
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	84
Petroleum Act	...	...	...	...	...	67
Nuisances and Housing	...	...	...	...	...	153
Total						1,759
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	66

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPOS,
Sanitary Inspector.

